

**HABAKKUK SERIES #3:  
Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?  
Habakkuk 1:12-17  
Grace Community Church  
Kingston, Tennessee  
Sunday, September 8, 2019**

**1. INTRODUCTION:**

- a. **STORY:** of Jim Eliot, Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming and Nate Saint, missionaries to the Auca Indians (now known as the Huaorani Indians), who were murdered by the Aucas.
- b. **Why do bad things happen to good people?**
- c. **How do we make sense of life when life doesn't make sense?**
- d. **The prophet Habakkuk wrestled with these same questions.**

- 2. TEXT:** Habakkuk 1:1-4, (1) The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw. (2) O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save. (3) Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises. (4) Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds.

**3. INTRODUCTION:**

- a. **In this book, Habakkuk was given a divine revelation that his nation, Judah, was in for some dark days.**
- b. **The book of Habakkuk is a dialogue between Jehovah God and the prophet, Habakkuk about the moral decadence within the nation of Judah.**
- c. **Habakkuk is trying to reconcile his belief in a good and righteous God with the facts of life as he saw them in the situations around him which seemed to contradict that belief.**
  - i. **Hab. 1:1-4, Habakkuk asked God to end the evil in the land.**
  - ii. **Hab. 1:5-11, God answered Habakkuk's inquiry, but it wasn't what Habakkuk wanted to hear.**
  - iii. **Hab. 1:12-17, Habakkuk protests God's response.**

**4. CHAPTER ONE: HABAKKUK'S BURDEN**

- a. **Habakkuk is thinking to himself, "Why does God allow the awful crimes that are perpetrated in Judah to go unchecked?"**

- b. **Hab. 1:2, Habakkuk asked God to bring revival to Judah.**
- c. **Hab. 1:5-11, God answered Habakkuk, but it was not what Habakkuk wanted: (5) "Look among the nations and watch—Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you. (6) For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs. (7) They are terrible and dreadful; Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves. (8) Their horses also are swifter than leopards, And more fierce than evening wolves. Their chargers charge ahead; Their cavalry comes from afar; They fly as the eagle that hastens to eat. (9) "They all come for violence; Their faces are set like the east wind. They gather captives like sand. (10) They scoff at kings, And princes are scorned by them. They deride every stronghold, For they heap up earthen mounds and seize it. (11) Then his mind changes, and he transgresses; He commits offense, Ascribing this power to his god."**
- i. **Babylon conquered the known world in Habakkuk's day, and was soon to march against Judah.**
  - ii. **God wanted Habakkuk to contemplate what Babylon had done to all the nations around Judah because what Babylon did to the nations around Judah, it would soon do to Judah.**
- d. **Hab. 1:12-17, (12) Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction. (13) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he? (14) Why do You make men like fish of the sea, Like creeping things that have no ruler over them? (15) They take up all of them with a hook, They catch them in their net, And gather them in their dragnet. Therefore they rejoice and are glad. (16) Therefore they sacrifice to their net, And burn incense to their dragnet; Because by them their share is sumptuous And their food plentiful. (17) Shall they therefore empty their net, And continue to slay nations without pity?**
- i. **Habakkuk is thinking, "Since God is holy, why would He allow the ungodliness of the Chaldeans to continue, much less sanction the Chaldeans assaults upon the Jews, His chosen people?"**
  - ii. **V. 12, Habakkuk goes on to address God as "LORD MY GOD," a name that accentuated the covenant God had with the Jews.**
  - iii. **Hab. 1:13, "[You are] of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, [And] hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A [person] more righteous than he?"**

1. Habakkuk wants to know, why, if God hates sin, is He going to allow the Babylonians to commit sins against the nation of Judah?
2. At times, it seems like there is a disconnect between our theology and the realities of life.
  - iv. Hab. 1:14, “[Why] do You make men like fish of the sea, Like creeping things [that have] no ruler over them?”
  - v. Hab. 1:15, “They take up all of them with a hook, They catch them in their net, And gather them in their dragnet.”
  - vi. Hab. 1:16, “Therefore they sacrifice to their net, And burn incense to their dragnet ....”
  - vii. Hab. 1:17, “Shall they therefore empty their net, And continue to slay nations without pity?”
- e. Habakkuk is having a theological struggle—trying to reconcile what he believed about God with the impending catastrophe in his land, but he could not do so.
- f. But, in the remainder of the book of Habakkuk, the prophet’s faith blossoms.
  - i. In chapter 2, Habakkuk becomes consumed with the character of God.
  - ii. Habakkuk rests upon what he knows of God and leaves the whys and wherefores to Him.
- g. Da 11:32, “ ... the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out [great exploits].”

## 5. BELIEVE WHAT YOU KNOW—LIVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE